

## GOC update

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### Overview

- Effective 15 Jan and 22 Jan, respectively, Canada and the U.S. began requiring COVID-19 vaccination as mandatory for all individuals, including truckers, entering their borders for both essential and non-essential reasons. These changes to travel restrictions led to several demonstrations nationally, including in Downtown Ottawa.

### Key Points

#### **Details on Demonstrations**

- **Currently there are, approximately, 1,000 to 1,100 people on Parliament Hill and 1,000 people in the vicinity (on Wellington).**
- **According to organizers speaking to protestors Sunday, some plan to stay well past the end of the weekend.** [Link](#)
- On 29 Jan a NOTAM was issued with an airspace restriction over downtown Ottawa extending from Victoria Island to New Edinburgh, including the Byward Market, Lowertown and over the Ottawa River, to include a section of downtown Hull/Gatineau.
- Additional demonstrations took place in several cities across Canada.
- Demonstrations continue at several border points of entry, notably Windsor, ON, Coutts, AB, and Emerson MB.
  - **Coutts AB: 30 Jan – At 12:00 EDT, the commercial parking lot and highway egress from the POE were completely full of commercial vehicles that had been cleared by CBSA. As there was no more room for additional vehicles to proceed into Canada the gates were closed across PIL. The port remains open however the highway remains closed at this time due to the blockade north of the POE.**
  - **Ambassador Bridge, Windsor ON: 30 Jan – At 12:24 EDT, approximately 22 vehicles were involved in a convoy demonstration near the POE. There were no impacts to CBSA operations.**
  - **Emerson, MB: 30 Jan – At 11:30 EDT, a small convoy began north of the port, staff are reporting issues on site due to twinned vehicles blocking the highway southbound approximately 8Km north of the port. There are no impacts to CBSA operations.**

#### **Preparedness and Response efforts**

- **The GOC hosted a Significant Event Information Sharing Protocol (SEISP) teleconference at 13:00 EDT, with partners at TBS and PCO. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Mon 31 Jan at 13:00 EDT.**
- **On 29 Jan, a Request for Federal Assistance (RFA) from Ontario was approved for access to Cartier Square Drill Hall parking lot, for staging of Ottawa Police Service (OPS) operations.**
- **OPS reports the following activities:**
  - **Priorities continue to include: Management of traffic issues (including gridlock); Keeping peace and order; Protecting monuments; and Addressing threatening and/or high risk behaviour.**
  - **Focus will shift to traffic approaches that move crowds and vehicles out of the downtown core. This will require a significant number of police and city resources.** [Link](#)
  - **Several criminal investigations are underway in relation to the desecration of the National War Memorial/Terry Fox statue,**

threatening/illegal/intimidating behaviour to police/city workers and other individuals and damage to a city vehicle. [Link](#)

- The Chaudière Bridge is closed but is the point of entry for hospital workers, first responders etc. coming from the QC side.
- The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) indicated that it is exploring the possibility that classes may be cancelled on 31 Jan, due to the ongoing protests. [Link](#)
- For information on planned traffic routes and road closures as of 11:30 EDT please refer to the following webmap: [Link to webmap](#)
- The following [Link](#) is an update to all of the road closures in the City of Ottawa as of 15:00 EDT, 30 Jan: [Link](#)

**Overall Assessment:** (derived from information available on open sources):

- The majority of the event has been peaceful thus far.
- Since most government employees are working remotely, the disruption to government activities is so far minor.
- **The demonstrators may stay beyond the weekend and there is currently no known end time for the demonstrations.**

On behalf of Deryck Trehearne, DG Government Operations Centre.

Thank you.

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### **Desmond Challenger**

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*Please note that I do not expect a response in the evenings, weekends or during your time off, unless there is an urgent situation in which we are both involved.*

*Veillez noter que je n'attends pas de réponse le soir, le week-end ou pendant vos temps libres, sauf en cas de situation urgente qui nous concerne tous les deux.*

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